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Comments: As a Vermonter familiar with Mt. Moosilauke and a person who enjoys a distant view of the mountain's western slopes from his bedroom window, as well as a citizen concerned with the preservation of our mature and maturing forests and their contribution to mitigation of climate change, I am adamant in my opposition to the logging project planned for the eastern slopes of Mt. Moosilauke. The Lost River Integrated Resource Project targets the areas of the forest that are the most valuable both ecologically and from the point of view of recreation, specifically the mature forests and roadless areas. These are precisely the areas that should be most protected because mature forest accumulate so much CO<sub>2</sub>, protecting against climate change. But these areas provide other benefits no less than important than climate change mitigation. They also mitigate flooding, preserve water quality and protect biodiversity.

It is a continuing dark mark against the Forest Service, that it continues to target for extensive logging in exactly those areas within our public lands that provide the greatest benefit to the public good and the health of the natural world. As time goes on, the depth of the Forest Service's violation of the public trust because of its erroneous and destructive planning and cutting will become still more obvious than it is today.

The outdated Forest Plan that sanctions and encourages this project must be discarded as quickly as possible. And it should be replaced with a plan that is up to date with what current science has shown to be the best management of our public forests for the sake of climate mitigation and the preservation of biodiversity. This would not include projects such as the Lost River Integrated Resource Project. This project must not go forward.